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18 January 1966

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# CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

CURRENT INTELLIGENCE  
RELATING TO NATIONAL SECURITY

State Dept. review completed

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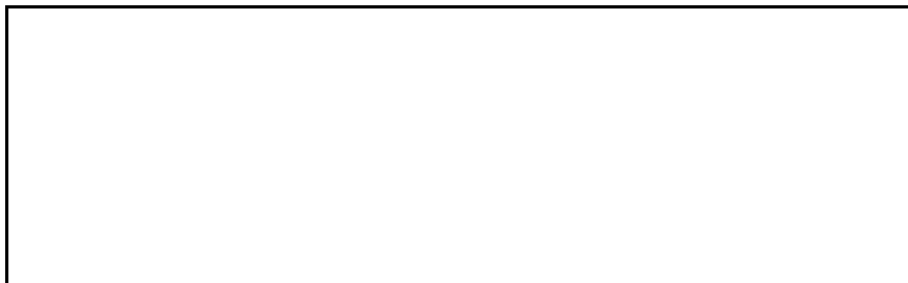
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C O N T E N T S

1. Vietnam: Current situation report. (Page 1)



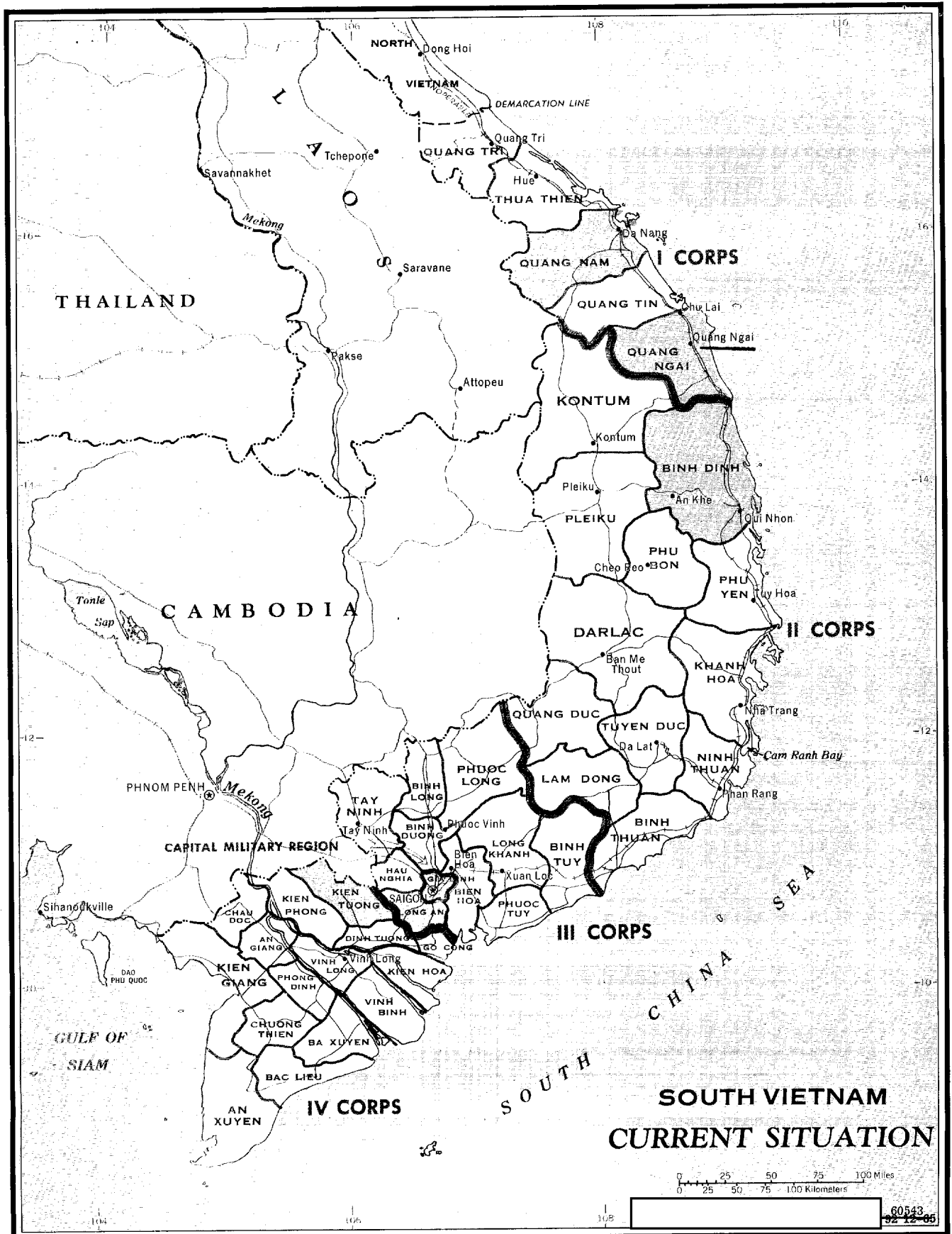
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4. Nigeria: Situation remains fluid in the wake of Ironsi's assumption of supreme authority. (Page 6)

5. Notes: Indonesia;



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\*Vietnam: (Information as of 4:30 AM EST)

The Military Situation in South Vietnam: Communist guerrilla activity has intensified over wide areas of the country on the eve of the Tet cease-fire. A series of incidents near Saigon during the past two days has resulted in heavy civilian casualties.

Early yesterday, an estimated company of Viet Cong utilized intense mortar fire during an attack on a government infantry school in Gia Dinh Province, about seven miles northeast of Saigon. Government casualties totaled one killed and 28 wounded; in addition, eight civilians were killed and nine others were wounded. Enemy losses were estimated to be 30 killed.

Four miles south of Saigon, South Vietnamese troops guarding an oil storage depot reportedly sustained light casualties while successfully defending against an enemy attack during the night of 16-17 January. However, at least 11 civilians were killed during the action. On the same night in Long An Province, an enemy mortar bombardment of a district headquarters reportedly killed five civilians and wounded four others.

In Kien Tuong Province, 26 civilians were killed yesterday when the bus in which they were riding struck a Viet Cong mine.

Last night, the command post of the South Vietnamese Army 2nd Division in Quang Ngai city received 20-25 rounds of 81-mm mortar fire, while a nearby district town simultaneously underwent a light ground probing attack. Preliminary casualties from the actions are reported as four government troops killed and 14 wounded.

(continued)

Earlier, attacks were mounted against another government outpost in Quang Ngai Province and against two regional force companies in Quang Nam Province. Government losses in the two engagements totaled 17 killed and 24 wounded. Four Viet Cong were reported killed in the attack on the outpost, but enemy losses in Quang Nam were unknown.

Yesterday, a South Vietnamese Army battalion on a road-clearing mission in Binh Dinh Province was attacked by a battalion of either Viet Cong or North Vietnamese regulars. Government troops suffered four killed and 20 wounded and the Communists lost seven killed and one captured before air support forced the enemy to break contact.

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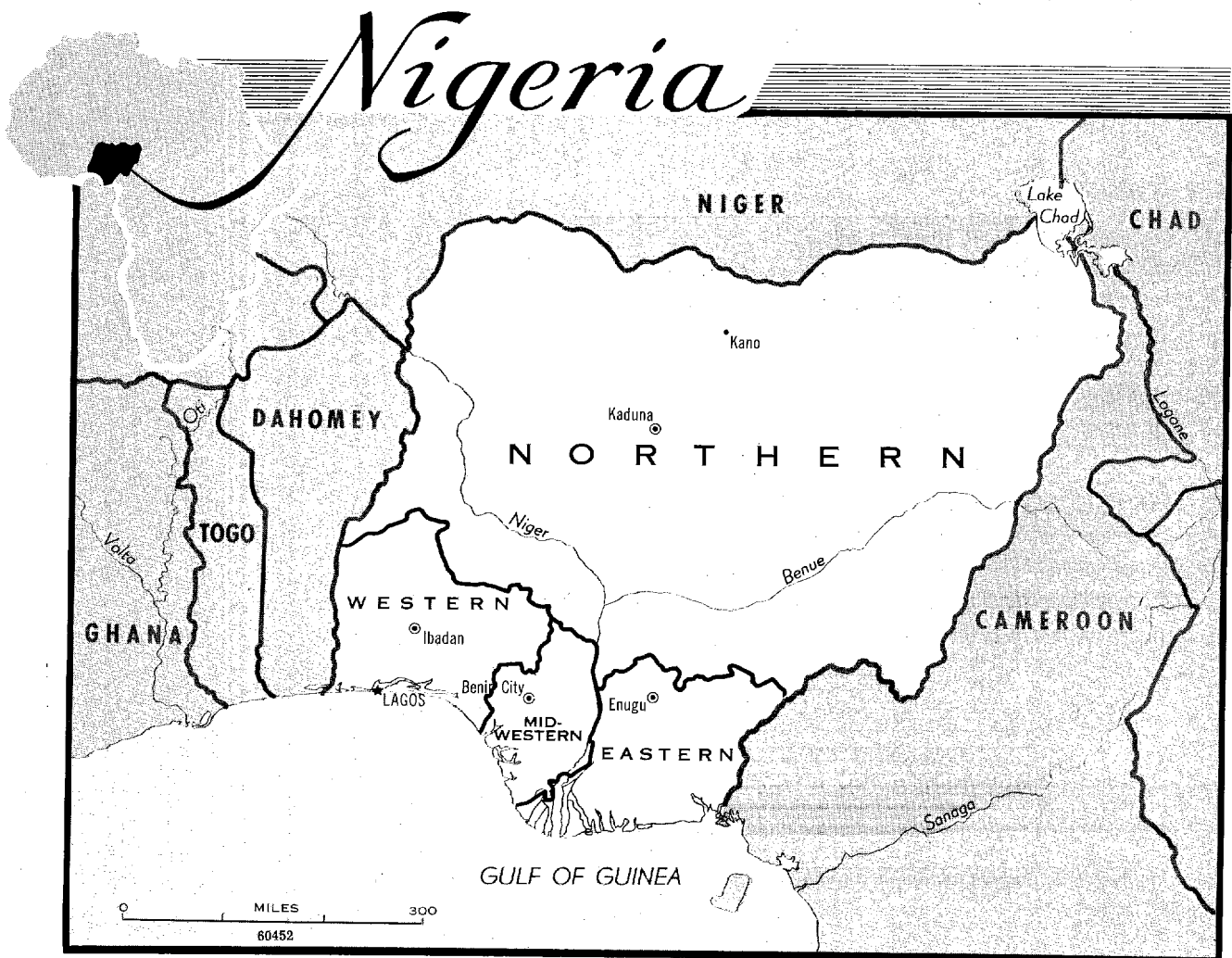
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\*Nigeria: The situation remains extremely fluid in the wake of General Ironsi's assumption of supreme authority, with the short-term outcome dependent largely on developments within the army itself.

Despite the attempt made to maintain a semblance of legality, it now appears that Ironsi's sweeping suspension of institutions and offices and his promise of a new constitution may add up to an attempt by him to take over rather than to reverse the 15 January coup move by middle-grade officers. His efforts appear motivated in part by a similar desire to break the stranglehold that conservative northerners have had on the federal power structure.

Ironsi seems to have been accepted with some enthusiasm by several top civil servants and politicians, including at least one northern member of the now-suspended federal cabinet. However, it is still not clear how much of the 10,000-man army is responsive to his command.

In any event, Ironsi has a poor reputation as a military officer or administrator, and the US Embassy in Lagos has strong doubts about his ability to maintain effective leadership of the new regime for very long. His evident continuing fear of the group of lower ranking officers who spearheaded the coup appears justified in view of a reported attempt on his life by a subordinate yesterday.

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Ironsi claimed yesterday that Major Nzeogwu, who emerged on 15 January in Kaduna, the northern regional capital, as spokesman for a "revolutionary council," has "surrendered his sword" to Ironsi's new regime. However, there has been no public acknowledgement of this yet from Kaduna, which yesterday reportedly announced formation of a "revolutionary government" of civil servants for the Northern Region. There are some indications that behind-the-scenes bargaining is in progress with Ironsi offering to name Nzeogwu as military governor of the north.

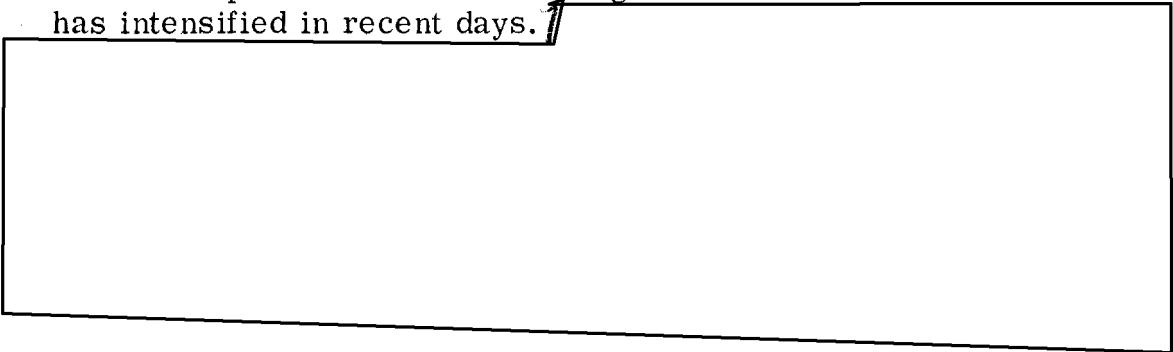
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[British officials in Lagos and London are seriously concerned over the possibility of widespread tribal violence and a disintegration of the army under the pressure of recent events. The army has built into it the same tribal and regional divisions that have plagued the federation as a whole since its inception. There is no evidence as yet of any major breakdown of military discipline, but should that happen a general crumbling of law and order would be likely. There are already some signs that the turmoil in parts of the Western Region since last October has intensified in recent days.]



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[\* Because of the shortage of time for preparation of this item, the analytic interpretation presented here has been produced by the Central Intelligence Agency without the participation of the Bureau of Intelligence and Research, Department of State or of the Defense Intelligence Agency, Department of Defense.]

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NOTES

Indonesia: In an immediate follow-up to weekend speeches by Sukarno and Subandrio calling for the populace to support the President, the palace appears to be organizing a "Sukarno Front" of workers, peasants, youth, and women. Yesterday Djakarta was plastered with pro-Sukarno signs. The Djakarta military commander, who apparently has become alarmed over the increasing unruliness of recent student rallies, has banned all demonstrations in the capital on the grounds that they have been "exploited by imperialists and Communists."

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## NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE ESTIMATE

The United States Intelligence Board on 13 January 1966 approved the following national intelligence estimate:

NIE 13-5-66, "Communist China's Economic Prospects"

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   The Director, The Joint Staff  
   The Assistant Chief of Staff for Intelligence, Department of Army  
   The Director of Naval Intelligence, Department of Navy  
   The Assistant Chief of Staff, Intelligence, Department of the Air Force  
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